

Message Text

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FOR SCI AND NBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN TECH UR

SUBJ: S & T AGREEMENT: METROLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION

REF: A. STATE 39113; B. STEVER-KIRILLIN LETTER OF JANUARY, 1974.

1. CHAIRMAN BOYTISOV OF GOSSTANDART REGRETS DELAY, BLAMED ON "TECHNICAL" PROBLEMS, IN REPLYING TO NBS DIRECTOR ROBERTS' LETTER OF NOVEMBER 19, 1973. RESPONSE WILL BE READY THIS WEEK, HOWEVER, AND EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROMISED COPY WHEN AVAILABLE.

2. GOSSTANDART AGREES IN PRINCIPLE THAT JOINT WORKING GROUP ON METROLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION SHOULD SOON BE DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS, ONE FOR METROLOGY AND ONE FOR STANDARDIZATION (REF B). HOWEVER, SOVIET SIDE IS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO DO THIS AT PRESENT STAGE, PARTLY BECAUSE IT FEELS THAT MECHANISM AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF COOPERATION ARE ALREADY FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED AND COULD USEFULLY SERVE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS IN FIELD OF STANDARDIZATION IN INITIAL STAGES. UNTIL ORGANIZATIONAL PHASE OF DEFINING COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION FIELD IS COMPLETED, SOVIET SIDE HESITATES TO DIVIDE FORMALLY INTO TWO GROUPS. AS FIRST STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, GOSSTRANDART BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE EARLY MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION IN MOSCOW, PERHAPS NEXT MONTH. SOVIET SIDE HOPES THAT MR. FRANK LAQUE COULD HEAD

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SUCH A DELEGATION, WHICH MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE TROWBRIDGE OF ANSI. PURPOSE OF SUCH MEETING WOULD BE TO PLAN CONCRETE

FUTURE COOPERATION IN THIS AREA, ELICIT US VIEWS OF THOSE
SOVIET PROPOSALS TRANSMITTED LAST FALL THAT HAVE NOT YET
BEEN COMMENTED UPON, AND TO DISCUSS ANY NEW PROPOSALS FROM
US SIDE. COMMENT: SUCH MEETING, OF COURSE, IS TANTAMOUNT
TO DE FACTO DIVISION OF JOINT WORKING GROUP, AND SOVIET
VIEW MENTIONED ABOVE BECOMES ACADEMIC. NEVERTHELESS, SOVIET
SIDE PREFERS TO POSTPONE FORMAL DIVISION INTO SEPARATE JOINT
WORKING GROUPS UNTIL AFTER, OR DURING, SUCH MEETING WITH
LAQUE. SINCE ON SOVIET SIDE BOTH WORKING GROUPS WOULD BE
HEADED BY GOSSTANDART AS LEAD AGENCY, IT APPEARS THAT
INTERNAL, PURELY ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS MAY BE PREVENTING
IMMEDIATE FORMAL COMMITMENT TO DIVISION OF THE TWO TOPICS.
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